



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Bolivia Country Brief May 2023



The joy of knitting building resilience at Native Uru Nation
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Operational Context

The Bolivian economy has been traditionally based on the exploitation of natural resources, and it was always classified among poor countries until the World Bank raised Bolivia's classification from a low-income to a lower-middle-income country since 2010. Despite sustained growth, there is still marked inequality between urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, especially among indigenous groups and women who have historically been relegated. To date, these groups remain living in highly vulnerable areas with food insecurity, have very low incomes, are subsistence producers, and do not have access to markets that allow them to maintain adequate nutrition or develop their economic activities. During the implementation of its current CSP 2023-2027, WFP Bolivia will continue supporting national and local governments and its vulnerable populations in emergency responses and strengthening their capacities to make them more resilient, especially to the effects of climate change. WFP will also provide technical support to link smallholders to markets. WFP has been in Bolivia since 1963, and its current interventions align with the Bolivian Economic and Social Development Plan 2021-2025, which focuses on the social development of vulnerable Indigenous populations.



Population: **12.0 m**
(est. 2022)

2022 Human Development Index:
118 out of 191

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **16% of children between 6-59 months**

In Numbers

USD 1.1 m six-month (June – November 2023) net funding requirements, representing 38 percent of total

Operational Updates

- In June, WFP plans to assist 7,600 beneficiaries in vulnerable conditions in five municipalities of Pando and Beni affected by floods through unconditional cash-based transfers (CBT). Based on a local evaluation, CBT will be delivered through local bank offices totaling between USD 24 and 48 to cover the basic needs gap from 30 to 60 days.

Challenges

- In the last two months, Bolivia is facing an economic crisis due to a temporal shortage of dollars needed for the proper functioning of the local economy. The country is also experiencing an environmental crisis in relation to natural hazards enhanced by the El Niño phenomenon including drought and frost in the highlands and floods in the Amazon region. These results in severe losses and damage to livestock and crops, affecting Bolivian communities' food security and nutrition.
- In the first four months of 2023, the Ministry of Health and Sports reported a lower COVID-19 incidence in the country but an increase in dengue cases, especially in the Amazon basin lowlands with 8,305 cases (75 percent) reported in Santa Cruz. Other Departments that have been affected are Beni, Pando, Tarija, Chuquisaca, Cochabamba and La Paz. As the southern hemisphere approaches the winter season, an increase in diseases related to low temperatures, such as Acute Respiratory Infections is expected, mainly in the highlands.

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Further information: [WFP Bolivia](https://www.wfp.org/countries/bolivia)

Country Strategic Plan (2023-2027)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
18.8 m	3.9 m	1.1 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food. SDG 2.1

Country Strategic Outcome 1: Food insecure and vulnerable households affected by shocks in Bolivia benefit from anticipatory action, prevention, emergency preparedness, coordination and response support to meet their diverse emergency food and nutrition needs and quickly recover.

Focus area: Crisis Response.

Activities:

- Provide cash-based transfers to food insecure households exposed to shocks in Bolivia.
- Provide technical assistance to local institutions to strengthen emergency preparedness and response, including through evidence-based advocacy.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholders have improved food security and nutrition through improved productivity and incomes. SDG 2.3

Country Strategic Outcome 2: Food insecure smallholder farmers, indigenous communities, and particularly rural women in Bolivia are more resilient to climatic and other shocks and stresses, including through sustainable livelihoods, consistent incomes, improved productivity, and market access and demand.

Focus area: Resilience Building.

Activities:

- Provide cash-based transfers to food insecure smallholders and indigenous communities, in particular rural women; and access to climate adaptation services, including technical assistance.
- Facilitate links between food insecure smallholders, particularly indigenous and women, to sustainable and reliable markets.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities to implement the SDGs. SDG 17.9

Country Strategic Outcome 3: Local, regional, and national level institutions have improved capacity, coordination, programme, and policy coherence related to supporting most vulnerable groups in Bolivia by 2027.

Focus area: Root Causes.

Activity:

- Develop and implement a sustained strategy with national institutions to address food insecurity in a holistic and gender-transformative manner among the most vulnerable communities, based on advocacy, communications, and improved coordination at local, regional, and national levels.

Monitoring

- As new contributions are expected in the upcoming months, an update in our local planning will be needed. This will be based on monitoring activities to assign priorities aligned with WFP country strategic plan 2023-2027.
- In the third quarter of 2022, the Bolivian economy expanded by 4.29 percent, compared to a 4.48 percent rise in the previous period. The Government recently cut its growth projection to 4.8 percent in 2023, down from a previous estimate of 5.1 percent.

Partnerships

- WFP Bolivia has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Rural Development and Lands to establish a framework for cooperation between parties to achieve their common goals.
- In May, WFP joined the Chamber of Industry, Commerce, Services and Tourism of Santa Cruz of Bolivia and other private sector partners to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2030. This is to raise awareness and promote innovative solutions at the SDG 2023 Business Forum and to address challenges such as poverty, hunger and climate change. WFP aims to move towards a more sustainable future for everyone by joining forces.

Donors

Bolivia, Canada, China, Germany (German Federal Foreign Office – GFFO & Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development - BMZ) and Sweden (Ministry for Foreign Affairs MOFA).